

Wonford Methodist Church

Contact Newsletter

May 2025

(No: 540)



Minister: Rev Ben Haslam (01392 256716)



Wonford is a
Fairtrade church

The **Methodist** Church 

www.wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk



@WonfordMethodistChurch



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A Message From The Minister

Dear Friends,

‘He has given us everything we need for life and godliness’ says Peter in the second of his New Testament letters, which is a wonderful thing but oddly, very easy to forget. We are now in the period between Easter Day and Pentecost, so now is a good time to remind ourselves of all the wonderful things which these two events make possible for us. Jesus rose from the dead, having attacked at its root the stranglehold of sin and death over our lives and the, as if that were not enough, sent to His people the gift of the Spirit, God’s presence within us, to enable us to become the people God wants us to be. There is nothing more God could have given us than His very self and, whatever life might throw at us, there is much to be thankful for.

Our society has been so spiritually barren for so long that people are increasingly looking for real meaning and hope in our angry, divided and materialistic culture. Our politics have failed. Various political ideologies have failed to transform society for the better. In particular, attempts to enforce ‘inclusion’ in misguided ways have only made us more divided than ever (ironically!). However, many churches which honour the scriptures and believe the gospel (not a watered down version of it) are seeing growth. I am certain that God is doing something in this country and many others and it is essential that we feed our prayers into this crucial moment. The resurrection and Pentecost have reverberated for the past 2,000 years, as empires have come and gone, as political movements have grown and retreated, as wars and rumours of wars haunted the life of nations. God’s kingdom, unlike earthly kingdoms is permanent, solid and eternal and it’s there that we should pin our hearts. When anyone puts their faith in Christ, they become a citizen of the kingdom of God and become heirs to an inheritance that can ‘never perish, spoil or fade’ (Peter again). We are forgiven and adopted as God’s children because of the resurrection. God’s spirit dwells within us because of Pentecost. He has indeed given us everything we need for the fullest life possible on earth and the certain hope and a wonderful future beyond our mortal existence. We are heirs to the most magnificent inheritance imaginable – so let’s pray that everyone knows it!

With every blessing
Ben Haslam

Dates For May 2025

Coffee

4th	Diane & Patrice
11th	Elaine & Graham
18th	Alison & Jenny S
25th	Melanie

Bible Study Group

Our fortnightly Friday Bible Study Group meets in our Lounge at 3pm to 4.30pm. In May they meet on the 9th and 23rd. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us as we explore the Bible together and share fellowship. On the 9th we will continue looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus. We will interrupt those studies when we start on the Bible Month material on 23rd May. Study booklets are available from Monika for anyone wishing to join in! Please speak to Monika Noronha or Terry Spencer if you want further details.

Monika

The Away Group

This group meets on a Monday evening every fortnight at 7.30 pm in the lounge. Dates and venues will be given out each Sunday in the notices.

Roundabout Café

The Roundabout Café will meet on Tuesday 20th May 2025. This month, as part of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, we will be having a talk on The Newton Abbot Spitfire by Pete Wade



We meet from 10.00am until noon with coffee and cake. Please join us if you can.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

This will take place each month between 9 and 10am on the same morning as Roundabout Café. For May this will be the 20th.

Lisa Thomas

Wonford Welcome Drop-In for Everyone - Saturdays 10.30am to 12.00pm.

In May we will be having the following activities for you to join, if you would like to, alongside a free cuppa & biscuits.

3rd May - please take the opportunity to spend some time in the chapel at the prayer stations for our Day of Prayer

10th May - we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day with music & photos etc along with a cream tea & cake

17th May - Helen & Lisa will be introducing a new community group called 'Wonford Health Matter'

24th May - on the 25th May it will be the internationally celebrated Africa Day so we will have a quiz to see what you know about the African continent

31st May - there will be a games morning, which will include table football, magnetic darts, table top curling and mini table tennis

Wonford Welcome is open to all; everyone, whatever their age or beliefs, will receive a warm welcome! If you are able to spread the word, put up a poster or share it on social media please do. And if you haven't been along yet please do come and join us one Saturday.

Alison, Helen, Lisa, Liz, Mandy, Monika, Paul & Rose and Sue K

General Church Meeting

Our GCM will be held on Sunday 11th May following our Sunday morning service. After the short formal meeting, where we approve our stewards and GCM members, Ben will lead us in a talk and discussion on 'Fruits of the Spirit'. Following this we will have a time of fellowship with a bring and share lunch.

All are welcome even if you are not on church council, this meeting is open to all.

If you are able to help with setting up the table with food and washing up after, the Leadership team will be very grateful.

If you feel you would like to be part of the church council by becoming a GCM rep, please let myself or one of the stewards know. We have three CC meetings a year plus the GCM.

Alison

Wonford Health Matters

Are you interested in health? Do you live or work in Wonford or are you a patient at Wonford Green Surgery? Then this new group could be for you! Wonford Health Matters aims to:

- provide and maintain defibrillators which can be accessed 24 hours a day
- create a link between the surgery and the community
- support local activities and events that will improve physical fitness and wellbeing
- encourage health education and the take up of screening opportunities

If you would like to know more or if you have any suggestions for the group please come along to Wonford Welcome on May 17th between 10.30am and 12pm.

Helen and Lisa

Day of Prayer

This takes place on **Saturday 3rd May from 8am to 8pm.**

With the theme 'Family, Unity' - please pray for our church, families, community and World. Prayer is an important part of church life and our individual spiritual journey.

If you haven't signed up for an hour in the chapel, please call Lisa on 01392 273220 to book in to a slot or organise that you will pray at home.

Get Involved!

What a great church we have! There are lots of opportunities for anyone to get involved. Can you tell the difference between a daffodil and a dandelion? Then maybe you could give the Green Team a hand with looking after the flowerbeds. If you are good with a dustpan and brush or can get taps sparkling perhaps you could take a turn with the cleaning. Or if you like DIY there are occasional maintenance jobs. If a cuppa and chat is more your thing then there is Wonford Welcome team on a Saturday morning or Sunday morning refreshments.

Whether you are able to help on a one-off or regular basis there are ways to share your skills and make a difference. Have a chat with one of the stewards who are at the back of the Church on Sundays or email info@wonfordmethodistchurch.org.uk

(We will also be exploring this theme at our GCM on Sunday 11th May, so please stick around that day to hear more and enjoy a bring and share lunch after).

Lisa

Be Still

When my children were teenagers and on school holiday, a variety of loud music regularly burst in on my study. Not the best background noise when I was trying to work or pray! Fortunately, I was friends with a Jesuit who ran the Retreat House in the famous Loyola Hall near where I lived. He generously offered me room 41 anytime I needed it.

Room 41 had a chair and a table, nothing else except silence! It was a haven for work and prayer, far from the madding crowd. If you have watched the powerful film 'The Shawshank Redemption', you will recall that prisoner Brooks had the opposite experience. In 1934, he was released on parole from his notorious Maine jail after serving fifty years! Not surprisingly, old Brooks found it a nightmare adjusting to the speed of traffic: "The world went and got itself into a big, damned hurry!"

Goodness knows how Brooks would have coped 90 years later, with vastly more traffic and a wholly computerised society, where everyone is urged to get 'full fibre broadband' to speed up one's life even more! Perhaps in desperation, Brooks would have booked one of those 'modern' 21st century holidays, where on arrival at the hotel everyone must hand in his mobile phone! No computers allowed.

The Church Army nowadays are tackling some very demanding, but vital work, with young people in deprived areas. One Evangelist, Steve, states his keenness to put into practice 'double listening'. First, listening to teenagers who are struggling with drug addiction, food poverty and low income etc, fully understanding their situation, before explaining what an evangelist does. "We want to serve them in ways they think are useful and needed, not just what we think they need." And then, secondly listening to God! How best will God direct him and his team in leading those young people into faith?

There is no substitute for prayer! Every Christian needs to make time for prayer. Jesus Himself gave clear instructions in Matthew 6 v 6. He urges, "Don't go on babbling...." Listen to God! No doubt one of Jesus' favourite

texts would have been Psalm 46 v10: "Be still, and know that I am God!"
The best preparation for Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

*"Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace –
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place."*

Rev Malcolm Carter

Prayer Focus for May 2025

Week Commencing Sunday May 4th

To you, LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy.
Psalm 30:8

Pray for our world, its leaders, its conflicts and its challenges, like recent disasters.

Week Commencing Sunday May 11th

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
Psalm 23:5-6 (NIV)

Pray for our nation, for our leaders, for all those who struggle with the cost of living. We pray for all the issues which challenge our cities, towns, villages and the countryside.

Week Commencing Sunday May 18th

"Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens."
Psalm 148:13 (NIV)

Pray for our city. We pray for the various responsibilities that our County Council and City Council have within Exeter. We give thanks for Christians Together Across Exeter [CTAX] and pray that unity, love and co-operation amongst all Christians in the city will continue to grow.

Pray for our communities, for those who are isolated and lonely, and for the strength to love and support one another.

Week Commencing Sunday May 25th

"For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods."

Psalm 97:9 (NIV)

Pray for our community here in Wonford. We pray for the future Wonford Wellbeing hub, that the plans will progress. We give thanks for the Wonford Health Matters project and for other projects within the community. We give thanks for all those who volunteer their time to invest in local projects.

Our Prayer Phone Link

Should you, or those you know, wish to be supported in prayer, the first contact is now Lisa Thomas (01392 273220). Your request will then be passed to members of the Prayer Link who will pray for your need. If the first contact is unavailable, please contact Rose Smith (01404 510853).

After Service Prayer Support

This is available in the Quiet Room on Sunday mornings. Two members of the Prayer Team will be available to pray with you.

The Prayer Team



A Prayer Following the Death of Pope Francis

Almighty God,

We thank you that you continue to call disciples to represent you on earth.

We recognise this call in the life, faith and ministry of Pope Francis.

We give thanks for the unique gifts with which you blessed him for this task, and for his obedience in fulfilling all that you asked of him.

Thank you for receiving Francis into the eternal home that you have been preparing for him.

We pray that all who mourn his loss will be comforted and for the Conclave that will elect his successor.

We hold before you the Roman Catholic Church and pray that we might continue to work together for the unity of your Church and for peace, justice and compassion in your world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Revd Ruth Gee, former President of the Methodist Conference and current Co-Chair of the British Methodist-Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission, shares the following reflection:

When Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope on 13 March 2013 he chose Francis as his Papal name. This was a clear indication of the emphases on service of people living in poverty, humility, and concern for creation, that would characterise his papacy.

There was a further indication of these emphases on his first appearance as Pope on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica. He wore a simple white cassock and the iron pectoral cross he had worn as archbishop.

In the years following his election Pope Francis wrote and spoke about the Christian vocation to serve. He challenged world leaders when they did not recognise the obligation to serve others, to welcome and protect refugees, and to protect the environment.

These among many characteristics of his papacy endeared Pope Francis to people around the world including those of other Christian churches and other faiths. His commitment to ecumenism and to inter-religious dialogue has been evident, not least in the good relationship with the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome (MEOR). Pope Francis has often been pictured talking and laughing with the Revd Matthew Laferty, Director of MEOR, representing the world-wide Methodist Church on official occasions in the Vatican.

There are many reasons to thank God for the ministry of Pope Francis, not

because he has been perfect, but because he has seen himself as a servant of God and a servant of those with whom he has sought to share God's love.

The humility which was evident in his inauguration will also be evident in his funeral which has been simplified at his request. Pope Francis will be buried in a simple wooden casket in a location outside the Vatican.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Revd Matthew Laferty, Director of the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, said:

Pope Francis was a man of deep Christian faith, clear conviction, and prayer. His ministry extended beyond the Catholic Church as he sought to pray and work for the unity of all Christians. Pope Francis challenged and inspired Methodists and Catholics to move beyond ecumenical dialogue to be a pilgrim people walking and working together, particularly in care of creation, migration, and human fraternity. He called the Church universal and all the world to live as Jesus Christ—in holiness and in loving the poor and the marginalised.

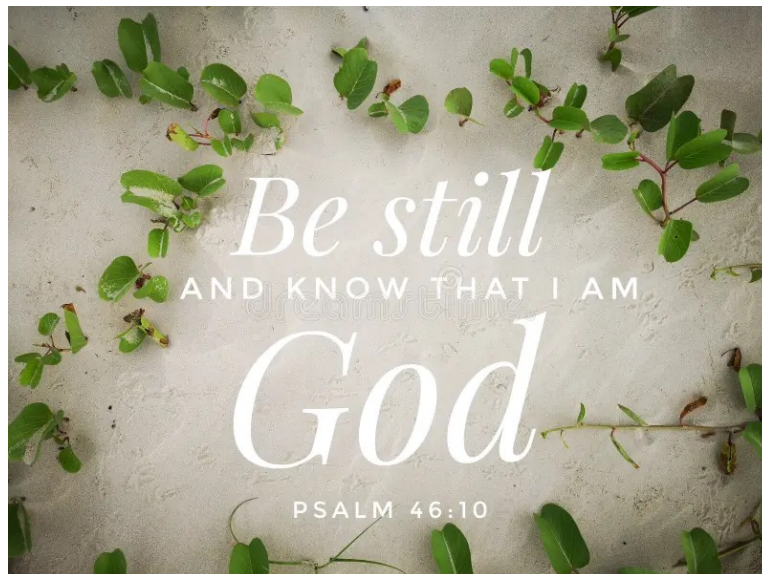


Dates For Your Diary

May 2025

Sat 3rd	Wonford Day of Prayer (8am to 8pm)
	10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm)
Sun 4th	10.00 a.m. Chris Carter - All Age Worship
Fri 9th	3.00 p.m. Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 10th	10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 11th	10.00 a.m. Rev Ben Haslam - Sacrament
Sat 17th	10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) including discussion about 'Wonford Health Matters' **
Sun 18th	10.00 a.m. Heidi Cottrell
Tue 20th	9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting (until 10am) **
	10.00 a.m. Roundabout Café (until 12pm) **
Fri 23rd	3.00 p.m. Bible Study Group meet in the lounge **
Sat 24th	10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **
Sun 25th	10.00 a.m. Paul Violet
Sat 31st	10.30 a.m. Wonford Welcome Drop-In (until 12.00 pm) **

**** Details in this newsletter or on the notice board in the hall.**



The deadline for items for the June 2025 Newsletter will be Sunday 11th May 2025. There is no guarantee of inclusion, but they may be given to:

Andrew Jackson - 19 Hills Orchard, Martock, Somerset. TA12 6DF.

Tel: 07818455600 or e-mailed to andrew.m.jackson@me.com

Weekly Activities

Sunday

10.00 a.m. Morning Service and Young Church
(1st Sunday in each month is All-Age Worship)

6.30 p.m. Evening Service *(not every week)*

Monday

7.30 p.m. The Away Group in the lounge *(Fortnightly)*

Tuesday

9.00 a.m. Monthly Prayer Meeting *(3rd Tuesday)*

10.00 a.m. The Roundabout Café *(3rd Tuesday)*

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

9.30 a.m. Friday Toddlers Group ***A***

3.00 p.m. Fortnightly Bible Group in the Church Lounge

Saturday

10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

Wonford Welcome Drop-In

Tea, coffee and biscuits are free.

(***A*** = No meeting during school holiday)